

**IRON COUNTY EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Iron County Courthouse, Hurley Wisconsin 54534**  
**Thursday, January 18, 2024**

***Approved: 5/13/2024***

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. by William Thomas.

**Roll Call:** Roll call was taken by Rebecca Holm. Committee members present: William Thomas, Kurt Wolff, Karen Lauer, Karl Krall. Committee members excused: Tanner Hiller. Also in attendance: Neil Klemme, Stephanie Bakker, Joseph Miller, Bruce Spangenberg, Mary Pardee, Tracy Henegar, County Board Chair Joe Pinardi.

Introductions were made, since there have been recent staffing changes, with new hires, Miller and Spangenberg. Pardee also introduced Tracy Henegar, Douglas and Bayfield County Family Educator who is taking on a 1-year, 8-hour a week AAED position to learn about administrative AED position.

**Acknowledge proper meeting posting:** Holm acknowledged proper meeting posting.

**Motion to approve meeting minutes for September 11, 2023:** Lauer moved to approve minutes for September 11, 2023, seconded by Wolff. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion to approve financial reports:** Committee members received **Extension and 4-H and Youth Clubs** financial reports through December 31, 2023. Wolff moved to approve financial reports for Extension and 4-H and Youth Programs, seconded by Krall. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** n/a

**Area Extension Director Report:** Pardee reported on the following:

- Update on new staff members (Miller, Spangenberg) and their UW-Madison staff onboarding.
- Extension Northwoods Showcase - Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at the Lake of the Torches Resort Casino in Lac du Flambeau, WI.

**Educator Reports:**

**4-H Youth Development:** Klemme reported on the following:

- Youth Leadership Council recruitment
- Iron County Summer Youth Camp
  - Camp staff recruitment
  - Summer staff recruitment
- NCERA-215
  - National research team Klemme is part of that measures the impact 4-H and Youth Development programming has on youth's development of social capital.
- 4-H National Conference
- 4-H State and National Educational Experiences

- Klemme shared that Iron County 4-H'ers have participated in the following state and national educational experiences: Space Camp, National Congress, National Conference, American Spirit, and WI 4-H Fall Forum.
- Penokee Range Livestock Club Weigh-In

**Community Development:** Miller reported on the following:

- New employee onboarding and trainings
- Connecting with new colleagues, partners, and community members through a variety of online and in-person meetings.
- Attended multiple conferences
  - BEAD Funding, Broadband Regional Workshop
  - Extension All-Colleague Conference
  - FEED (Food Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development) Summit
- Submitted a 2024 Division of Extension Dean's Innovation Grant
  - POEMB0T9000: Preserving Iron County's rich literary history through future-focused skills development.
- Iron County Mobile Food Pantry
- GooseChase App
  - Miller is looking into using the GooseChase app as a main portal for Backyard Adventure Month and other future programming.
- Housing and Broadband

**Agriculture/Horticulture:** Spangenberg reported on the following:

- New employee onboarding and trainings
- Connected with State Horticulture staff regarding horticulture programming at a state level and specific impacts on Iron County.
- Initiated weekly Northwoods Yard & Garden Column
  - The column is shared on Extension Iron County's website, social media, *Iron County Miner*, and *Lakeland Times*.
- Upcoming programming will be offered in various parts of the county in 2024
  - Planning Successful Vegetable Gardens and Ornamental Grasses for Northwoods Landscapes.
  - Keeping Your Trees Healthy
  - No Mow May

**FoodWise:** FoodWise Educator, Deb Leonard was absent. Bakker reported on the following:

- Fall/winter programming at Mercer, Hurley Schools and Hurley Head Start.
- StrongBodies
- Leah's Pantry – Around the Table
- All-Colleague Conference
- FoodWise monthly newsletter
- Healthy Communities Coordinator position
  - FoodWise Educator for Ashland County, Marisa Perlberg, has accepted this position.
  - Bakker hopes to fill the Ashland FoodWise Educator vacancy mid-year.

**Support Staff:** Holm reported on the following:

- All-Colleague Conference
  - Holm connected with other support staff around the state.
  - Support staff will start monthly meetings via Zoom starting in February.
- Iron County Mobile Food Pantry
- SISU Endurance Team XC Ski Club
  - Enrollment, promotion, marketing
  - Ski equipment checkout
    - 37 sets of skis are checked out to members this season
- 4-H Achievement Night program
- Social media and website insights for Extension, 4-H, and County pages
- FoodWise newsletter
- Assisted Bruce with design and promotional materials for the Northwoods Yard & Garden column.
- Other Iron County support
  - Photographer for Iron County Health Department's Fitness Court ribbon cutting event.
  - Designed announcements for other county offices that were shared on the Iron County Courthouse Facebook page, including Michael Saari's retirement flyer, Iron County Sheriff Department's Dispatcher position flyer, Iron County Zoning Department meeting announcements.
- Planned and organized a courthouse Apple Social in partnership with FoodWise during the UW-Extension's Great Apple Crunch event.

**Schedule next Extension Education Committee meeting:** Next Extension Education Committee meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

**Adjourn:** William Thomas adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.